LOS ALTOS HILLS CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXV No. 3 September 2002

CALENDER

Sept. 7, Saturday, 5-10 PM. Westwind Barn **"HOEDOWN,"** a benefit for barn preservation and 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program. Riding demonstrations, dinner, music, and auction. **Info 941-6113**

Sept. 22, Sunday, 3-5 PM, **NEWCOMER'S RECEPTION,** Town Hall Garden, Sponsored by the LAH Community Relations Committee. **Info. 650-941-7222.**

Oct. 5, 6, Sat. Sun., **LOS ALTOS FALL FESTIVAL,** 10 AM-5 PM, So. Parking Plazas Downtown. **Info. 948-1455.**

Oct. 20, Sunday, 9-5 p.m. Westwind Barn **HALLOWEEN HORSE SHOW.** Festive youth event, a fun fundraiser for the Los Altos Hills-based Pacific Ridge Pony Club. **Info 408-247-8759**

PAT DOWD RETIRES

SAY IT ISN'T SO!

After 23 years as the City Clerk for the Town of Los Altos Hills, Pat Dowd is retiring on November 15th. "Say it isn't so!" exclaimed members of the Community Relations Committee, when they were told of Pat's retirement.

Members of the volunteeer committees, council members, staff and colleagues all share the same feeling. Town Hall won't be the same without Pat Dowd.

Pat Dowd, Los Altos Hills City Clerk 1979-2002

In December 2002, Pat Dowd will celebrate her 23rd year as the Town Clerk for Los Altos Hills. She is often characterized as Town Hall's secret weapon. Because of Pat, the Town functions so smoothly and efficiently.

"Pat has served, with great distinction and style, many City Councils and administrations during her 23 years of service. She has been a true touchstone for us all in terms of history, continuity and customer service. She will be greatly missed!" states City Manager, Maureen Cassingham.

To say that Pat has seen it all is an understatement. During the past 23 years, she has worked with 8 permanent City Managers and 5 Acting City Managers, coordinated 12 elections, attended about 600 Council Meetings, served 21 council members and still manages to have one of the most welcoming personalities at Town Hall.

"I am always amazed that Pat has this fantastic ability to find anything that we ask her for - and secondly, inspite of all of her responsibilities, she maintains the neatest desk of anyone I know," states former council member, Elayne Dauber.

Pat is known for her ability to multi-task many projects, coordinate all aspects of the administrative aspects of the town governmental process, and to compress those long council meetings into minutes in a timely manner. She provides external liaison with the City of Los Altos, the Chamber of Commerce and other Town governmental agencies.

In between she oversees the coordination of Town's standing committees, newsletter and festivities. In fact, every standing committee relies heavily on Pat's guidance and counsel to achieve their goals. She almost single handedly coordinates the Annual Town Volunteer Recognition Dinner for the many volunteers who staff our Town's committees.

"Pat is amazing in many ways, such as staying cheerful under all circumstances. However, she is *most* amazing in her uncanny ability to distill a three minute harangue in a City Council meeeting to a few cogent words," states Mayor Bob Fenwick.

In 1979, Pat came to LAH from the Development Office at Stanford University. "The small Town Hall was a perfect work environment," states Pat. "It provided an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities - including representing the Town on a wide range of external organizations and associations. This included serving on the Board of Directors for the Northern Division of the City Clerks Association and the State Board of the City Clerks Association." In the mid-eighties Pat attained the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) status.

When asked what her most memorable experience was at Town Hall, Pat says that the swearing in ceremony for new council members is always a deeply moving experience. It is an important part of the election process and one that it is always an honor to participate in.

In contrast, Pat said her biggest fear occurred when she had to coordinate her very first city council

(Pat Dowd, continued on page 2)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Participation in EV Loan Program

Thanks to the great initiative of Assistant Planner Debbie Pedro and Planning Director Carl Cahill, the Town was selected to participate in the electric vehicle loan program sponsored by the California Air Resource Board. "Rachel", the Honda RAV4, was delivered to the Town on Friday, July 26 and will be with us for ten weeks. This is a free loan program that allows Town staff to test out a battery-powered vehicle and encourages public agencies to add electric vehicles to their vehicle pools. "Rachel" can go about 60 miles fully charged and she will be truly tested by her assignment in the Hills.

City Manager Maureen Cassingham

Update on PG&E Franchise Task Force

The League's PG&E Franchise Task Force is on schedule to receive PG&E's responses to their list of questions on July 31. Work is scheduled to begin thereafter on the franchise template that will be used by over 200 cities to best position them in their relationships with the new PG&E companies. As reported earlier, PG&E's bankruptcy action is creating two companies to carry out the company's electric and gas transmission business. These new companies will require new franchises that the Task Force will address with a draft franchise ordinance.

Revenue changes to the Town from this reorganization are difficult to predict until the new companies are operating and collecting revenue. Until the League is ready to provide guidance in the franchise granting process to the benefit of the affected cities, Council action should be postponed.

Response Plan for Draft Housing Element Comments

As you know, the Town received comments on its draft Housing Element from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on July 15, 2002. Debbie Pedro, Assistant Planner, Debbie McCormick, the Town's Planning Consultant and Jan Abraham, Planning Intern have been assigned by Planning Director Carl Cahill to prepare responses to HCD's comments.

HCD has raised some questions regarding the Town's affordable housing policies. Any such policy matters will be presented to Council for consideration before responding to HCD. Once the draft response has been prepared, a Housing Element specialist will be engaged to critique it. Upon the HCD's receipt of our response, staff will assess the value of an on-site HCD visit to go over any new comments, if received.

Ham Activation Procedures Near Final

Administrative procedures for activating the Town's ham radio operators during an emergency are being reviewed by the Emergency Preparedness Committee. These draft procedures are predicated on input from Rick Ellinger, ARES Emergency Coordinator and member of the Town's Emergency Communications Committee. Once finalized, copies will be provided to Council and all affected committees, which outline the "self-activation" emergency response process.

Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

New Public Safety Officer

For the first time in its 46-year history, Los Altos Hills has a position of Town Public Safety Officer.

Steve Garcia is the Town's new Safety Officer. Seated in his office in the Heritage House, Steve is busy fielding a myriad of phone calls from residents on various safety issues and possible code infractions. Steve has been on the job for about 2 months. His primary role is to develop an Emergency Plan that includes staff training to guide staff in response to emergency situations in a coordinated manner.

Steve Garcia
Public Safety Officer

Steve's role will be to perform code enforcement, assist the Sheriff's deputies in service calls, serve as safety coordinator, provide employee training on OSHA requirements and develop emergency planning program for the Town.

High on Steve's list of priorities is to implement the State Emergency Management System (SEMS) plan that will provide for an Incident Command System (ICS). Such a system allows for inter-agency communications to be clearly established when overlapping jurisdictions are involved. This is essential in meeting the needs and responding to an emergency (such as the fires in the Oakland Hills or the Loma Prieta earthquake). Drills will be undertaken to ensure that the systems work.

As an incentive, the State of California will reimburse the Town (~20% of the costs) for compliance with the SEMS.

Plans are underway for an Emergency Preparedness Class to be held at Town Hall for the residents in October.

Steve's background is in law enforcement, having served for 15 years as a patrol police officer in the City of Mountain View. He must have had a guardian angel riding with him because he was on the receiving end of 12-rounds of bullets from a 357 Magnum revolver fired by an inept perpetrator. Most of the bullets missed him, however he did get a few "knicks." Following recovery from injuries he retired from active police work to the public safety line of work. Steve states, "Public service must be my calling. Because of my training, I have an ability to help people deal with a wide range of needs – from a lost child to conflicts with perpetrators of crime. It is a very satisfying career."

When not working, Steve enjoys remodeling his home. He bought the house next door to the home where he grew up in Santa Clara. As if he didn't have a big enough job in LAH, he is actively involved in the rearing of three teenage boys.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Steve.

Emergency Preparedness Class

(How to prepare for Earthquakes & Emergencies - steps you can take to ensure a peace of mind)

Sponsord by the American Red Cross

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Town Hall

Call to RSVP Limited Seating 941-7222 Ext. 242

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Town Planning Department approvals for new development since May 2002 through July, include the following: four new residences approved through the Fast Track review process, two secondary units, two major additions, two pools and three landscape screening plans.

Planning Director Carl Cahill

The Planning Commission reviewed the following: three conditional use permits, a four-lot subdivision and one lot line adjustment.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend that the City Council approve an ordinance amendment allowing a maximum 32-foot height limit for primary residential structures provided that building setbacks are increased from 40-feet to 60-feet as measured from the front yard property line and from 30-feet to 45-feet as measured from the side and rear yard property lines.

Other requirements include a minimum 4:12 roof pitch and a maximum 27-foot continuous wall height. The intent of the ordinance amendment is to promote variation in architectural styles. The existing 27-foot height limit remains otherwise in effect.

The Planning Commission also voted to recommend that the City Council approve the plans for the New Town Hall.

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

Welcome New Staff

Recent additions to the Town Hall Staff Engineering Department are left to right. Richard Cheng, Associate Engineer; and Johnson Chung, Engineering Technician.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch Programs are a first step and first line of defense in residential safety. If you are interested in organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program, please call the Community Services Division of the Sheriff's office at (408) 299-3238.

Good Samaritan Saves Sassi

(The following letter was received at Town Hall commending a Good Samaritan for finding and returning a lost pet named Sassi. Yes, there are local heroines in Los Altos Hills. Enjoy this little letter and smile! Ed.)

Sassi, the Yorkshire terrier, is home today thanks to a kind-hearted resident of Altamont Road.

Driving home on a warm summer evening, a woman spotted Sassi on Page Mill Road and took her in for the night. After taking Sassi to the vet in the morning for a check-up, the woman went door-to-door in our neighborhood to find the owner and connected with the Belkins on Mir Mirou, who had read the lost-dog e-mail and contacted the happy, grateful owners, the Pavlinas' daughter and grandchildren visiting from out of town.

The family sends its appreciation to the neighbors who helped with encouragement, the search, and the reunion.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Openings exist on the following committees: **Environmental Design and Protection, Information and Safety, North County Library Authority and Joint Volunteer Awards.** The position of **Youth Commissioner** is also vacant.

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). For additional information call Pat Dowd, City Clerk at 941-7222, ext. 226.

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 5, 2002

A General Municipal Election will be held in the Town of Los Altos Hills on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 to elect two Councilmembers.

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions concerning the upcoming election, please contact Pat Dowd, City Clerk at 941-7222.

For Council Agenda and Minutes, See our Website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

(Pat Dowd - continued from page 1)

election. Having been on the job one month and having never gone through the election process before, she was extremely fearful that something would go wrong and that the whole election would be thrown out. Fortunately, that first election went off with out a hitch and Pat would carry-on to supervise eleven more elections.

Following retirement, Pat has no special plans. In contrast to her normal work life, she plans to leisurely start the day, read the entire paper, drink that second cup of coffee and vaguely remember what it was like to rush in to work at 8 AM. She and John have a gorgeous new home with a vineyard in Cupertino, where they will enjoy gardening and making their own wine. They also enjoy traveling and plan to continue to take trips both locally and abroad.

Pat has lots of hobbies, but none is more enjoyable than her "doll house" collection. On weekends she can be found scouring local garage sales to add to her collection. Now, she will be able to do it during the weekdays, too. Volunteer activities include continuing her work in Rotary and Inner Wheel and volunteering at community events both in Los Altos and Cupertino.

Please join us in thanking Pat for her many years of dedicated service and to wish her a glorious retierment.

NEWCOMER WELCOMING RECEPTION

Town residents are invited to a Newcomer Welcoming Reception on Sunday, September 22, from 3 PM to 5 PM in the garden of Town Hall. Newcomers to Town who have become residents in the past two years are receiving a special invitation to this reception, and others in town are invited to meet and welcome these newcomers.

Members of Town committees will have tables at this reception with information on their committees' activities. Refreshments will be served, hosted by the Town. Please RSVP to Town Hall, 941-7222, by September 16 so we can plan for the refreshments. This reception is organized by your Community Relations Committee.

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2002 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2002.

Internet Address: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor, Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel, Karen Emerzian

Los Altos Hills City Council

• Robert Fenwick, Mayor • Emily Cheng , Mayor Pro Tem

• Toni Casey • Steve Finn • Mike O'Malley

Recycled Paper

ON LOAN - NEW ELECTRIC CAR FOR TOWN HALL STAFF

(In their efforts to reduce air pollution, the California Air Resource Board sponsors an EV (electric vehicle) Loan Program for public agencies. It is a free, short-term loan program that allows city workers to test out battery-powered vehicles and to encourage public agencies to add electric vehicles to their fleet. City Manager Maureen Cassingham has recently authorized Town staff to participate in this exciting program and the first EV (a Toyota Rav4) was received on Friday, July 26, 2002.)

The ev *Loan Program*

Many people have heard about electric vehicles (EVs), but few have driven them. To encourage EV leases and to expose government representatives to EV technology, the Air Resources Board, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Department of General Services have launched the ***ev* Loan Program**. Through this short-term loan program, state and local governmental agencies can experience the benefits of an EV.

How does the program work?

At **no cost** to program participants, the ***ev* Loan Program** provides: An electric vehicle for one to two months and temporary installation of any charging infrastructure that is needed.

After the loan the Town will have the opportunity to evaluate the vehicle and describe your experiences. If the Town decides that EVs would make a good addition to their fleet, the Board can help lease a vehicle and arrange for installation of charging equipment.

How will the ev *Loan Program benefit public fleets?*

- A no-risk opportunity to experience the many benefits of electric vehicles.
- Gain "real-world" experience with electric vehicles.
- Develop a good understanding of vehicle range, reliability, and operating costs.
- Determine if these vehicles meet your fleet needs.
- Make an informed decision on whether to lease an electric vehicle.
- Showcase our Town's concern about environmental issues.

So far the Town staff love driving the car. The Honda RAV4 is named "Rachel" and will be at Town Hall for 10 Weeks.

"You just have to plan where you are going, to ensure that you don't exceed the capacity of the battery," states Carl Cahill, Planning Director.

MESSAGE FROM WESTWIND BARN

Westwind Summer Fun

Westwind Barn was a buzz with activity this summer, hosting three Ohlone Day Camps, one adult riding clinic and two horsemanship camps for children.

Six intrepid Hills residents, including a member of the city council, attended the two-day adult riding clinic for beginners. Veteran dressage instructor, Jiji Mellon, instructed the group on basic horse safety, handling and riding. The participants spent a total of six hours acquainting themselves with the horses and riding. The 4-H Riding for the Handicapped graciously provided the mounts. Future clinics are planned and Jenny Whitworth, a certified instructor with the British Horse Society will conduct the clinics.

Jenny also taught the two horsemanship camps for children in late July and early August. Each child was assigned his or her own horse for the week. The child learned to lead, groom and tack the horse. The child would then ride for approximately one hour in a group of six. One volunteer, typically a teenager from Los Altos Hills pony club, attended each child to ensure his or her safety. The quality of instruction far exceeded any that can be found in commercial barns in the area. We are truly lucky to have such active volunteers, excellent instructors and the beautiful scenery of Westwind Barn and Byrne Preserve. Future clinics and horsemanship camps are being planned. For further information, please contact Westwind Barn at 941-6113.

—Jane Kawasaki, Manager
Westwind Barn

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

A Glimpse of Halloween in August

The bounty of fall is ahead of us. For those of us who planted our pumpkin seeds in June, we should be seeing a thriving pumpkin patch.

My neighbor, Vince Zunino on Ascension Drive just carved his first yellow pumpkin in his garden in August. The Pumpkin is a young one that he culled at 200 pounds so that another pumpkin growing on the same plant could grow faster.

The pumpkin that was removed had grown from a flower to 200 pounds in 24 days or almost 10 pounds a day average! That's pretty good but the pumpkin that was left on the plant had a better position on the vine and a better shape and was also growing well.

To grow a really big pumpkin, only one can be left on the plant. Vince carved the pumpkin with his twins, Tony and Olivia, to get some practice for Halloween. Olivia wanted a happy face so that it wouldn't scare anybody. Vince left the pumpkin in the patch because it was so heavy, he couldn't move it. So that's the story about how a glimpse of Halloween happened in early August. With a little bit of luck, the pumpkin that remains could grow to 1,000 pounds, which would be a new California state record. As of today it weighs about 300 pounds and is growing 30 pounds a day!

—Duffy Price, Editor
Inspiration and hard work
by Vince, Olivia & Tony

INTRODUCTION TO CROQUET GOLF

LAH Recreation Programs presents Introduction to Croquet / Golf Croquet on Wednesdays, 10AM to 12 Noon at Little League Field #2 on Purissima Road with follow-up classes On-going. FREE! Call 650-493-3322 to sign-up or e-mail JCroquet@aol.com.

NEWCOMER'S CLUB

If you have moved into Los Altos Hills in the last two years you qualify to join one of the best clubs, The Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Newcomers. And you will be surprised to know that members stay in for years and years. Why they continue their membership may have something to do with both the friendly people and the activities. It is made up of over 100 couples and singles that enjoy the camaraderie. Activities include lunches, gourmet dining, monthly TGIF parties; two book groups, several bridge groups, golf, tennis and hiking. The next function will be a brunch in September. For membership information call 948-7780 or 947-1279.

RESIDENT'S REPLY CARD

Let's Hear What You Think

1. We'd like to hear from you. Please let us know what is on your mind about Los Altos Hills.

2. What issues would you like to see addressed in future Town Newsletters?

3. What else can we do to better serve you?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / e-mail: _____

Please use this card or answer on a separate sheet. Send your responses to Town Hall, 26739 Fremont Rd. LAH, CA 94022 or Fax: 650/941-3160

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NEWCOMER'S RECEPTION

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2002

TOWN HALL GARDEN

3-5 PM

REFRESHMENTS

WELCOME OUR NEWCOMERS

SPONSORED BY THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(See Article Page 4)

CELEBRATE WESTWIND BARN & HOEDOWN

Grab your hat and loosen your belt for the old-timey Westwind Barn Hoedown. The barn's September 7 fundraising event, known for its entertainment and tasty barbeque, celebrates the 25th anniversary of Friends of Westwind, whose efforts have made the hilltop site a place for wildlife and residents to enjoy.

The event will help support the historic barn and its 14-acre property, built in the 1940s by Frank Ellithorpe and given to the town in 1975. It will also assist the 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program for children with severe disabilities. Far from the hustle and bustle of Silicon Valley, the evening begins at 5 p.m. with equestrian entertainment, featuring a demonstration of young disabled 4-H and U.S. Pony Club riders, a display of graceful ballet-like dressage and a rousing performance by the Westwind Barn Drill Team strutting to music on horseback.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. features your choice of barbequed chicken or spare ribs, followed by beans, corn bread and dessert. A no-host bar will offer soda, wine and beer. End the evening under the stars, square dancing to live country music. Throughout the night, the barn will host a silent auction of furniture, art, baskets, services and other items. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for youth and seniors. Children under 6 free. Tickets can be reserved at (650) 941-6113 or are available at the door.

CELEBRATE WESTWIND BARN

Heritage On the Hoof !

A Benefit to Support and Preserve The Non-Profit Historic Barn and the 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program

HOEDOWN !

Saturday
September 7
5-10 PM

Equestrian Performances
Barbecue Dinner
Square Dancing to Live Music
Silent Auction

Tickets
$25 adults/$20 kids and seniors
Children under 5 free

Reservations 650-941-6113
Tickets Available at Gate

27210 Altamont Road in Los Altos Hillls
Next to Byrne Preserve

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

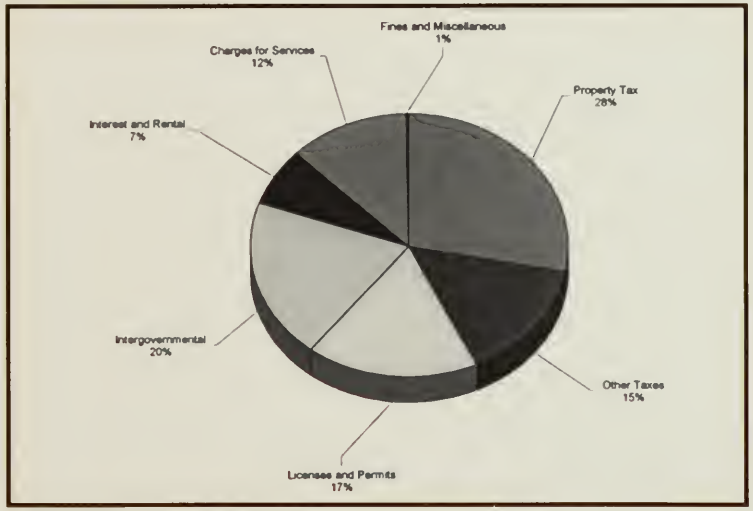
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Once again the highest priority in this fiscal year is the preservation of the Town's infrastructure assets. Specifically, the means to provide maintenance and replacement of the Town's aging streets, pathways, utilities and buildings must be considered as a requirement for the continued successful delivery of municipal services into the future. As the cost of infrastructure planning and construction continues to increase, a discussion of the Town's capital project planning, priorities and funding will be critical. State revenue shortfalls estimated to be as high as $24 billion represent the greatest challenge to this year's budget preparation. While the Governor has assured municipalities that the motor vehicle in-lieu backfill and other allocations will not be reduced or eliminated, we will not be certain until after the November, 2002 elections how the State's fiscal crisis will affect the Town. Town funding could decline by approximately $400,000, which represents nearly 10% of the General Fund revenue.

Another challenge to this year's budget is the adjustment of fees for services. The Mayor directed that building permits for new residences be reduced immediately. Staff will analyze costs related to permitting activities and recommend a revised fee schedule for planning, building and engineering permits. Because fee increases require a process of notices and hearings, any increases, if approved, would not become effective until three months into the new fiscal year. Accordingly, this budget document is based on the assumption that building permit fees for new residences will be reduced immediately and all fees will be adjusted when the new fee schedule is adopted. Any changes to our budget estimates resulting from the complications described above will be addressed in the mid-year budget request.

General Fund Revenues

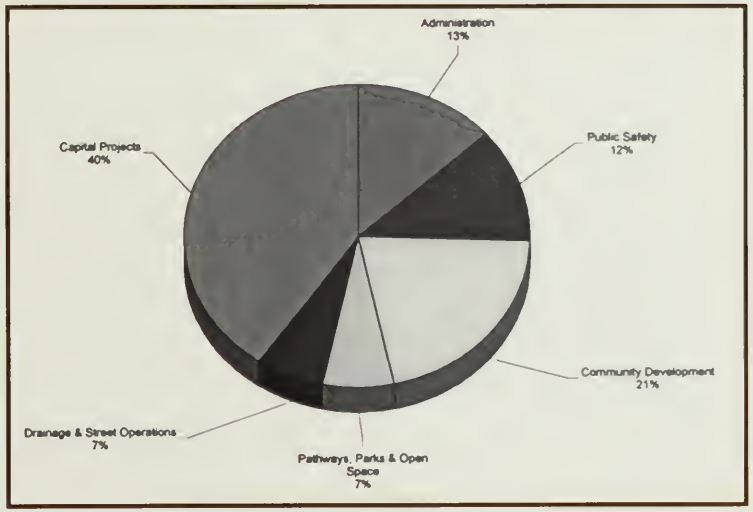
Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003



	Budget FY 2003	Estimated Actual FY 2002	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Property Tax	1,402,550	1,330,739	71,811	5.40%
Other Taxes	746,500	739,065	7,435	1.01%
Licenses and Permits	862,438	880,800	(18,362)	-2.08%
Intergovernmental	980,805	655,352	325,453	49.66%
Interest and Rental	370,803	410,937	(40,134)	-9.77%
Charges for Services	602,400	534,129	68,271	12.78%
Fines/Miscellaneous	16,080	17,645	(1,565)	-8.87%
Total	4,981,576	4,568,667	412,909	9.04%

Governmental Fund Expenditures*

Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003



	Budget FY 2003	Estimated actual FY 2001	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Administration	891,183	792,910	98,273	12.39%
Public Safety	826,896	806,474	20,422	2.53%
Community Development	1,406,628	1,223,363	183,265	14.98%
Pathways, Parks & Open Space	456,249	255,719	200,530	78.42%
Drainage & Street Operations	414,411	437,632	(23,221)	-5.31%
Capital Projects	2,708,853	2,616,921	91,932	3.51%
Total	6,704,220	6,133,019	571,201	9.31%

* Includes General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, and Capital Improvement Funds